

YNF

Yuko Nii  
Foundation

# THE GRAND PARADISE LOST COSTUME BALL CELEBRATING JOHN MILTON'S 400<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



September 2008



## OVERVIEW

### WILLIAMSBURG ART & HISTORICAL CENTER

*September 27th 2008*

*8-11 PM*

*"good food, drinks, entertainment and fine company"*

### **THE GRAND PARADISE LOST COSTUME BALL**

*Celebrating John Milton's 400<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

*Couched amid historical artifacts and contemporary art celebrating PARADISE LOST, the greatest poem in the English language. Perhaps the largest birthday party for Milton in the world, with poets, artists and composers. We will be documenting this extravaganza on video to produce a documentary for this historical event that we believe will be seen for centuries to come. Milton's centennial birthday will not come again for another 100 years. Be part of it! If you attend the gala, you will probably be in this video!*



Ten years after the largest birthday bash in history for John Milton's 400<sup>th</sup> birthday, we are finally doing the catalog. This was a history making production in a glorious national landmark building.



The final catalogue will have all of the art works that were in the show. This on-line version is only 46 pages. The printed catalogue will have 150 gorgeous full color pages.

To order: [Milton@wahcenter.net](mailto:Milton@wahcenter.net)

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE SHOW DIRECTOR:**

“The impact of Milton, especially his *Paradise Lost*, has enduring influence in the lives of not only the academic world, but among those of us in the arts and the general public who can FEEL the powerful resonance of his words and ideas. The unabridged original is the magical touchstone, the undiminished constellation in the Western psyche that has illuminated our culture for the foreseeable future, as has Shakespeare and the Bible.

“There are many worldwide events from Oxford & Cambridge to the New York Public Library. However, we know of none quite like ours that asks professional artists, composers and poets to respond to the greatest poem of all time.

“America is a country of immigrants who hail from all corners of the globe. We come together through our common use of the English language. Every culture and ethnicity has contributed in their turn to the wealth of words and phrases in the English language. The English language no longer belongs to that island nation that once was greatest empire the world has ever seen, but to all of us. As the Greeks gave us philosophy, so the British have given us the gift of the ever-evolving English language. As part of our exhibit, in homage to the British peoples and their gift to us, we will include interesting artifacts of British heritage from the Yuko Nii Foundation collection.”

**Terrance Lindall**  
**Show Director**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE WAH CENTER:**

“The Williamsburg Art & Historical Center (WAH Center) was founded upon the ‘Bridge Concept,’ which envisions a multifaceted, multicultural art center whose mission is to coalesce the diverse artistic communities, and create a bridge between local, national and international artists, emerging as well as established artists of all disciplines.

“It takes three to for the art to be realized – a dynamic symbiotic trinity composed of the artists, the art promoter or space provider, and the art appreciator. The WAH Center is pleased to be the promoter and space provider, bridging the artists with the audience in this visually exciting and scholarly production, ‘Paradise Lost.’

“While literary, academic and religious circles throughout the world are celebrating John Milton’s 400<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, we at the WAH center are taking great thought and literature of the past along with historic artifacts from the time of John Milton and bridging them to the present day of artists, writers, poets, composers & performers. It is a unique and inspiring happening in this historical New York City landmark.

**Yuko Nii**

**Founder & Artistic Director**

**Williamsburg Art & Historical Center**



## Comments

“The exhibit and programs promise to be a diverse collection of multiple perspectives and strategies that should engage the audience you hope to reach.” Wendy Woon, the Edward John Noble Foundation Deputy Director for Education of the Museum of Modern Art, New York

“The show has been lovingly put together by Yuko Nii, the founder, and Terrance Lindall, the executive director, of the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center, who have turned its headquarters, an 1860 bank building next to the Williamsburg Bridge, into a Miltonian jumble, an earthbound pandemonium.

“On the first floor there’s Japanese porcelain, some 17th- and 19th-century illustrated editions of “Paradise Lost,” a 17th-century Torah opened to Genesis, a portrait of Disraeli and a case containing a 19th-century British colonel’s uniform, complete with regimental pouch and ceremonial sword. “Paradise Lost,” for all its capaciousness, doesn’t exactly mention either Disraeli or the British Army, but these exhibits are in honor, Mr. Lindall said, of the people who gave us English, the language Milton wrote in.” Charles McGrath, *New York Times*, September 25, 2008

THANKS TO:

Milton's Angels, Volunteers

Tiffany Yanetta

Eric Nelson

Jacqueline Safian

Maryanna McConnell

David Smith

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**New York Art World Magazine**

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New York City Council Member Diana Reyna,

The New York City Landmark Conservancy



Opening with the  
**THE GRAND PARADISE LOST COSTUME BALL**  
Saturday, September 27th  
8pm to midnite

“As sinfully delicious as ‘Man’s first disobedience’ and the most fabulous extravaganza since Adam & Eve had to cover their nakedness!”

Performance by  
HUMAN KINETICS MOVEMENT ARTS with Yana Schnitzler and Group TBA  
Recently performing at the Metropolitan Museum. The cutting edge of interactive dance. “...mesmering...” —Richard Termine, photographer, New York Times

Plus the JC Hopkins Biggish Swing Band, Olek fashion models performing throughout the three floors of exhibits. Also; Adam & Eve video art, birthday salutations, good food and drink, more.

Noted Brooklyn poet S. David recites his tribute to John Milton and takes you on a poet’s tour of the art in the show

**OCTOBER EVENTS**

Peter Dizozza

The reopened WAH Theatre in the third floor Grand Ballroom of the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center presents:  
Paradise Found!  
Four Performances,  
Friday and Saturday at 8PM  
October 3rd and 4th, 10th, 11th

Premiere stagings of scripts inspired by Paradise Lost by members of The Brooklyn Playwrights Collective:

Sugar-Coated Sin by Alaina Hammond  
Lost in Paradise Lost by Maria Micheles  
Paradise Found by Peter Dizozza

With Kaitlin Bailey, Alaina Hammond, Mike Allen Hill, John Andrew Morrison and Ken Richards

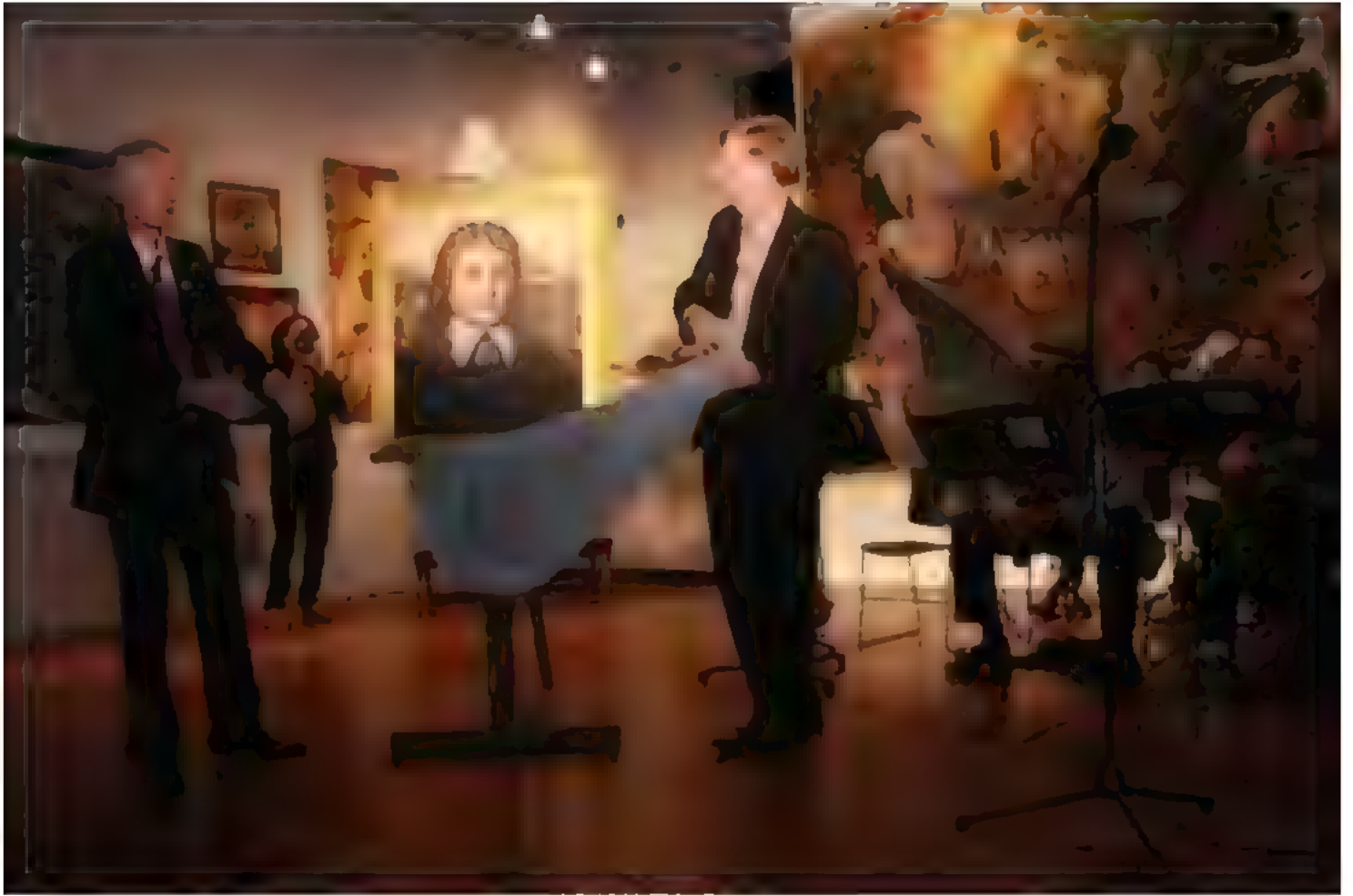
Call for Student and Professor discounts!



Yana Schnitzler's Paradise Lost Ballet at the Opening

## ARTISTS IN SHOW

Antanas Adomaitas	Rodica Miller
Stephen Auslander	Clive Milton
Carrie Ann Baade	Ella Morton
Donna Balma	Walter Lynn Mosley
Bienvenido Bones Banez, jr.	Eric Reuben Nelson
Robert S. Beal	Yuko Nii
Alan F. Beck	Leah Oates
Jeff Berman	Olek
Orin Buck	David Orr
Rich Buckler	Linda Paleias
Ivan Calderone	Lennie Peterson
Joe Catuccio	Carol Quint
Carolyn Chaperon	Max Razdow
Gail Baxter Cohen	Luis Rojas
Suzanne Dahlquist	Michael Knud Ross
George deMoura	Tim Slowinski
Matthew E. Derezenski	Gary Spradling (in memorium)
Gary Duehr	Phyllis Stapler
Jaesun Duggan	Sandra Taggart
Val Dyshlov	Mayumi Takagi
Eric Edelman	Matthew Turov
Camilla Fallon	Marcela Varona
Ailene Fields	Benjamin A. Vierling
Jesse Forgione	Sharyne E. Walker
Troy C. Frantz	Jon Neal Wallace
Aimee Hertog	Bryan Kent Ward
Tom Hooper	Haejin Yoon
Sarah Horvat	
Amanda Husberg	
Mildred Kaye	
Ray Kinlock	
Arthur Kirmss	
Frank Krasicki	
Kris Kuksi	
Randy J. Lagana	
Estelle Levy	
Terrance Lindall	
Drew Maillard	
Greg Maillard	
Ben Marxen	
Bertram Matysik	
Gerd Matysik	
Gertrud Matysik	
Adam Miller	
Rodica Miller	
Clive Milton	



World Renowned Rich Buckner unveils his portrait of Milton

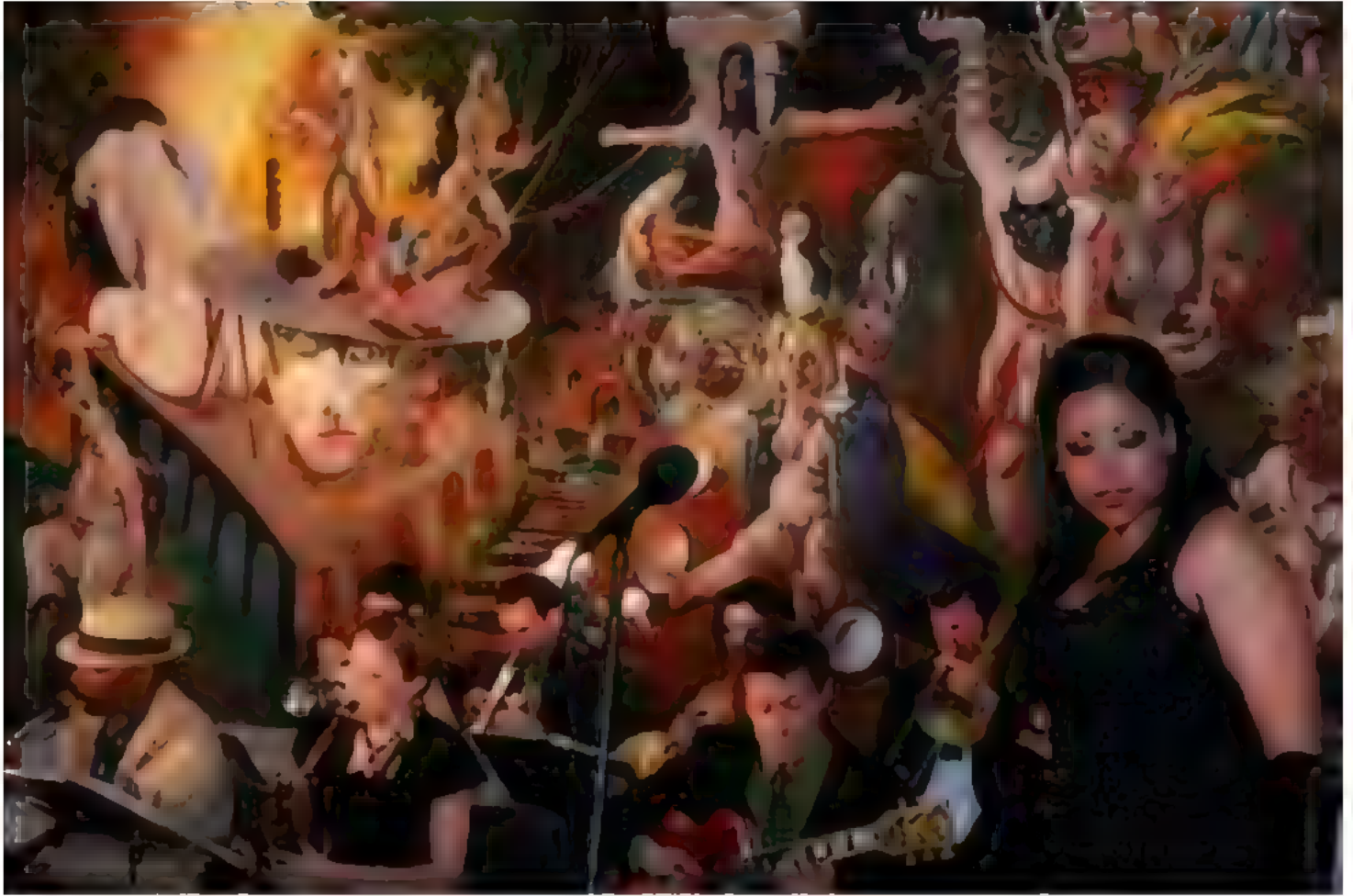




Terrance Lindall introduces a great descendant of John Milton: Clive Milton



Lovely Jazz Singer at the Reception



The evening had a big band to delight the crowd  
in front of a fantastic mural by Joe Catuccio



The famous Polis yarn bomber Olek's friends  
look at Rich Bucker's portrait of Salvador Dali

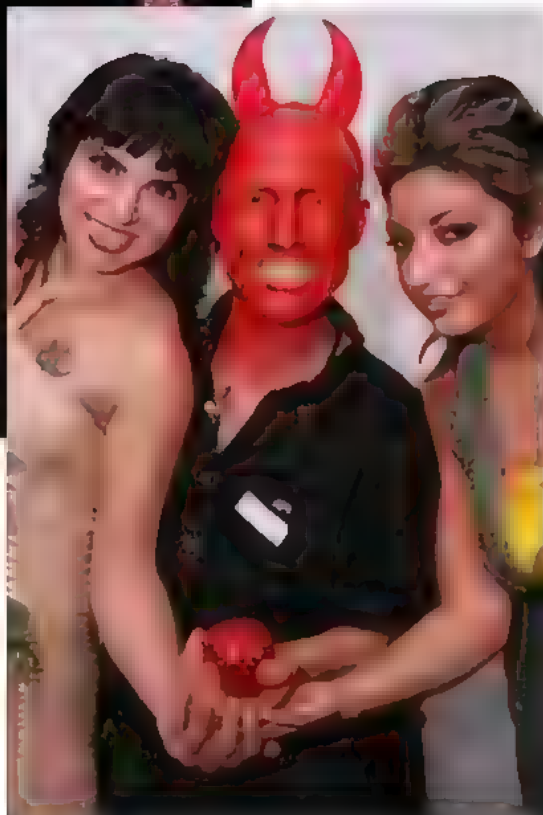
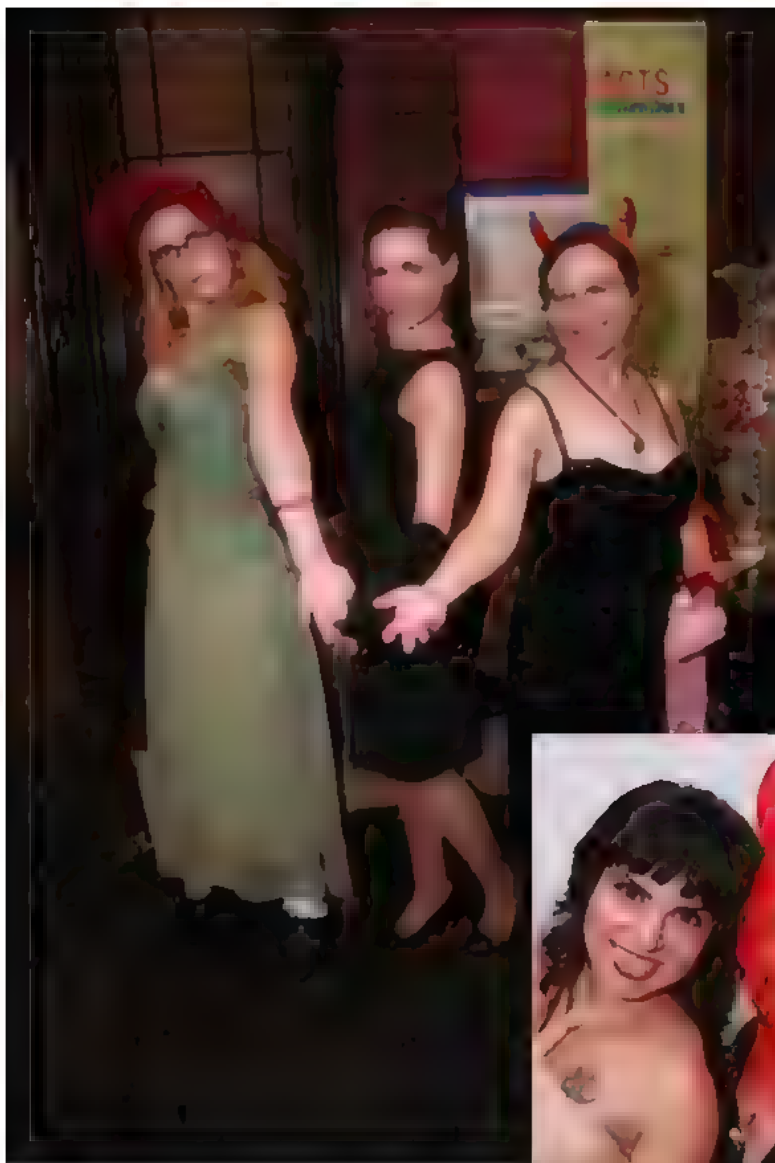




The Birthday Cake



Arthur Kirmss with his Milton bust that  
Lights up with candles



Some guests

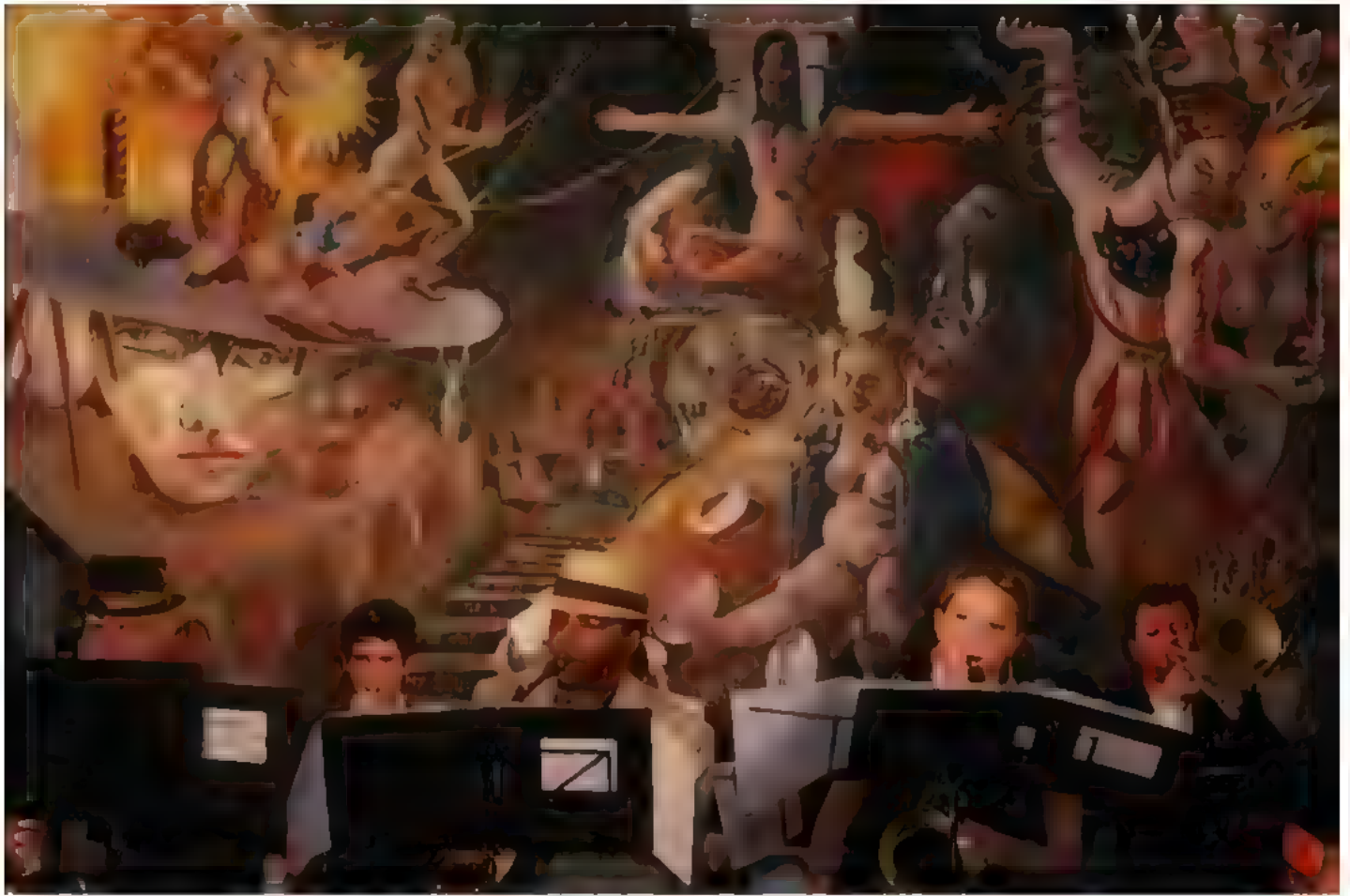


Yuko Nii with Rich Buckler greets the audience





Surrealist composer and play writer Peter Dizozza  
Addresses the audience



The big band played into the night



A German OOMPAH band invades the show unannounced

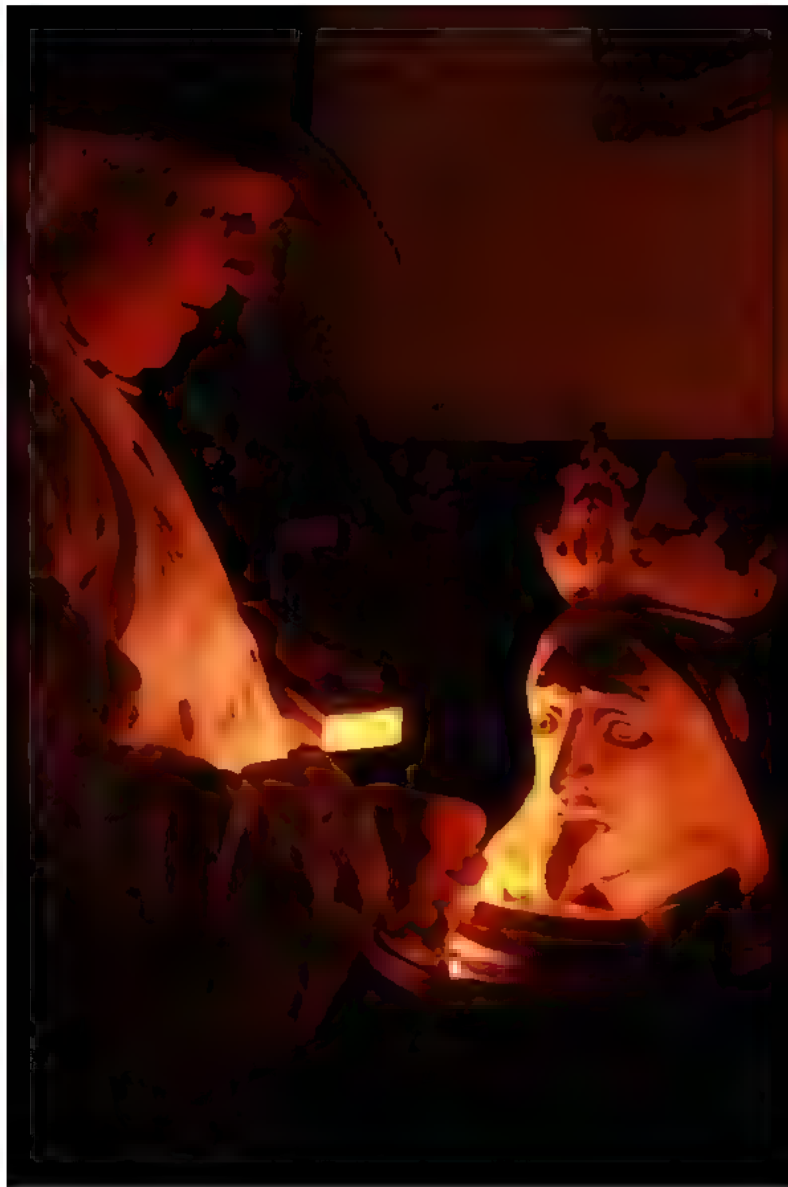


Thumbs up to the evening





Elegant apple pickers!



**Testament of the Poet**

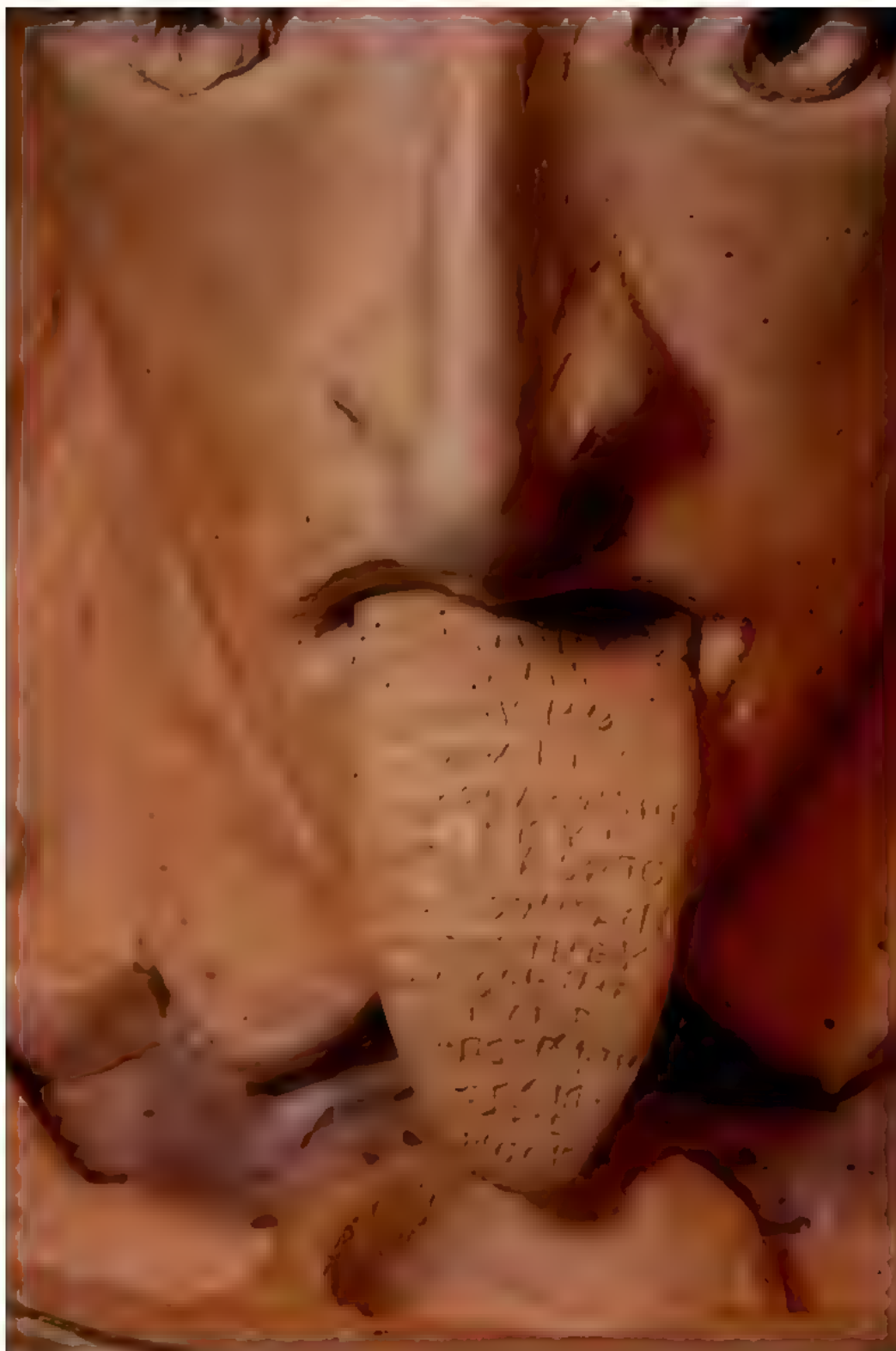
**An intimate concert of 17th century music by the  
ensemble Courante**

Directed by Arthur Kirmss

Courante musicians Arthur Kirmss, Lisa Kelly and Heather Arzberger in 17th century costume, on harp, guitar, and recorders, performing European vocal and instrumental music through early Baroque, celebrating Milton's life.



We had an angel to greet guests!





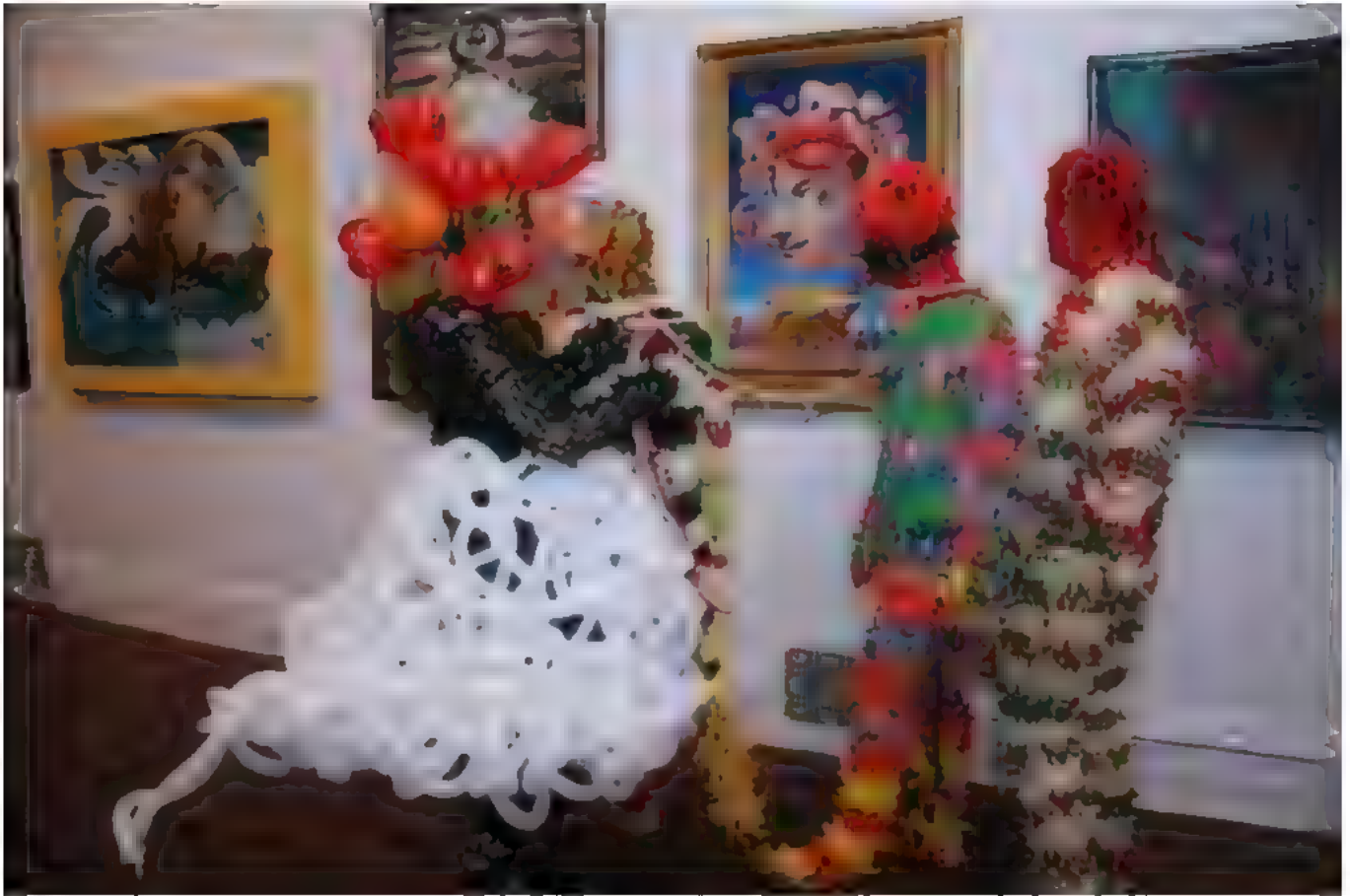
A flower in the garden!







Milton and guests



Olek's costumed pranksters





Adomaitas





Ailene Fields



Jaesun Duggan



Val Dyshlov

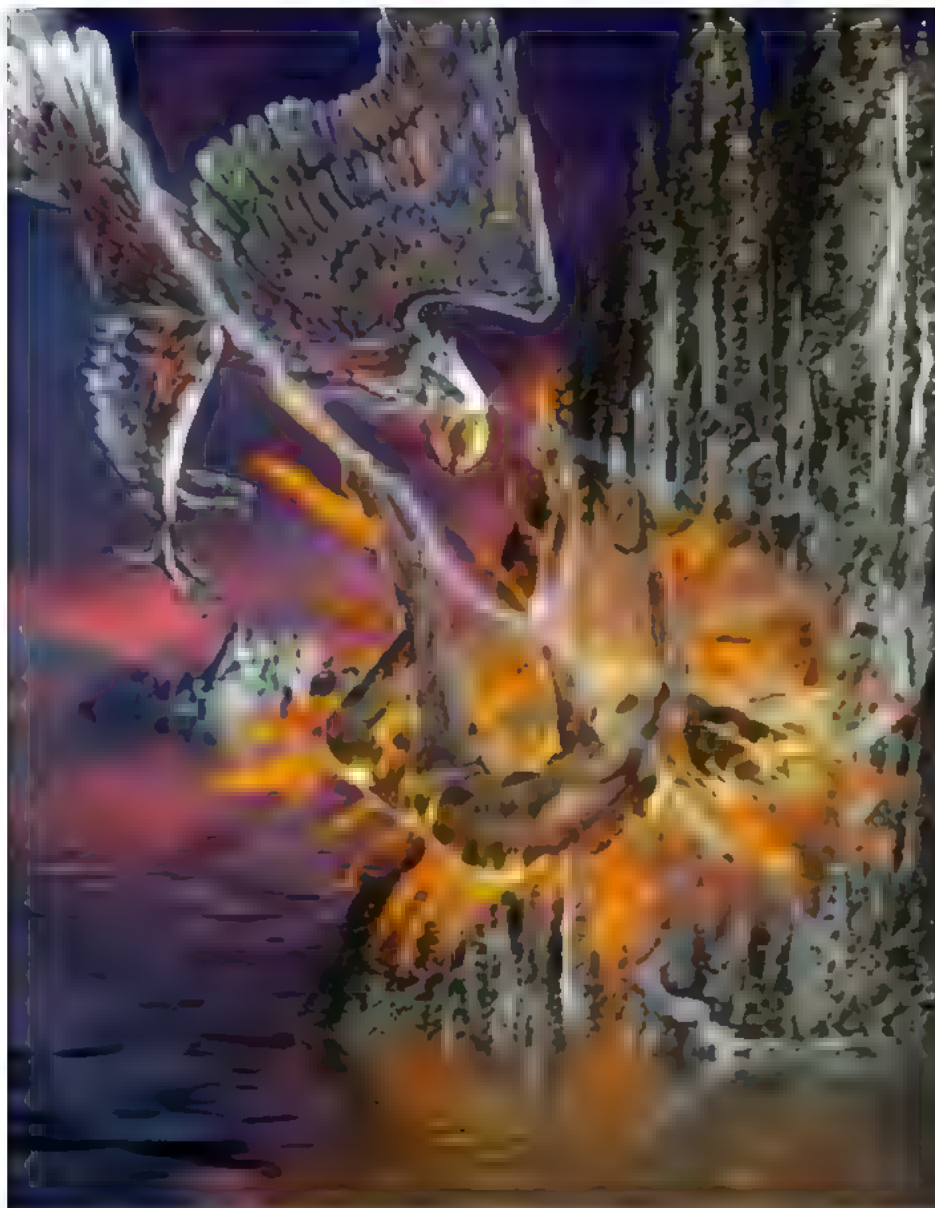


Jesse Forgiione



Troy Frantz





Mildred Kaye



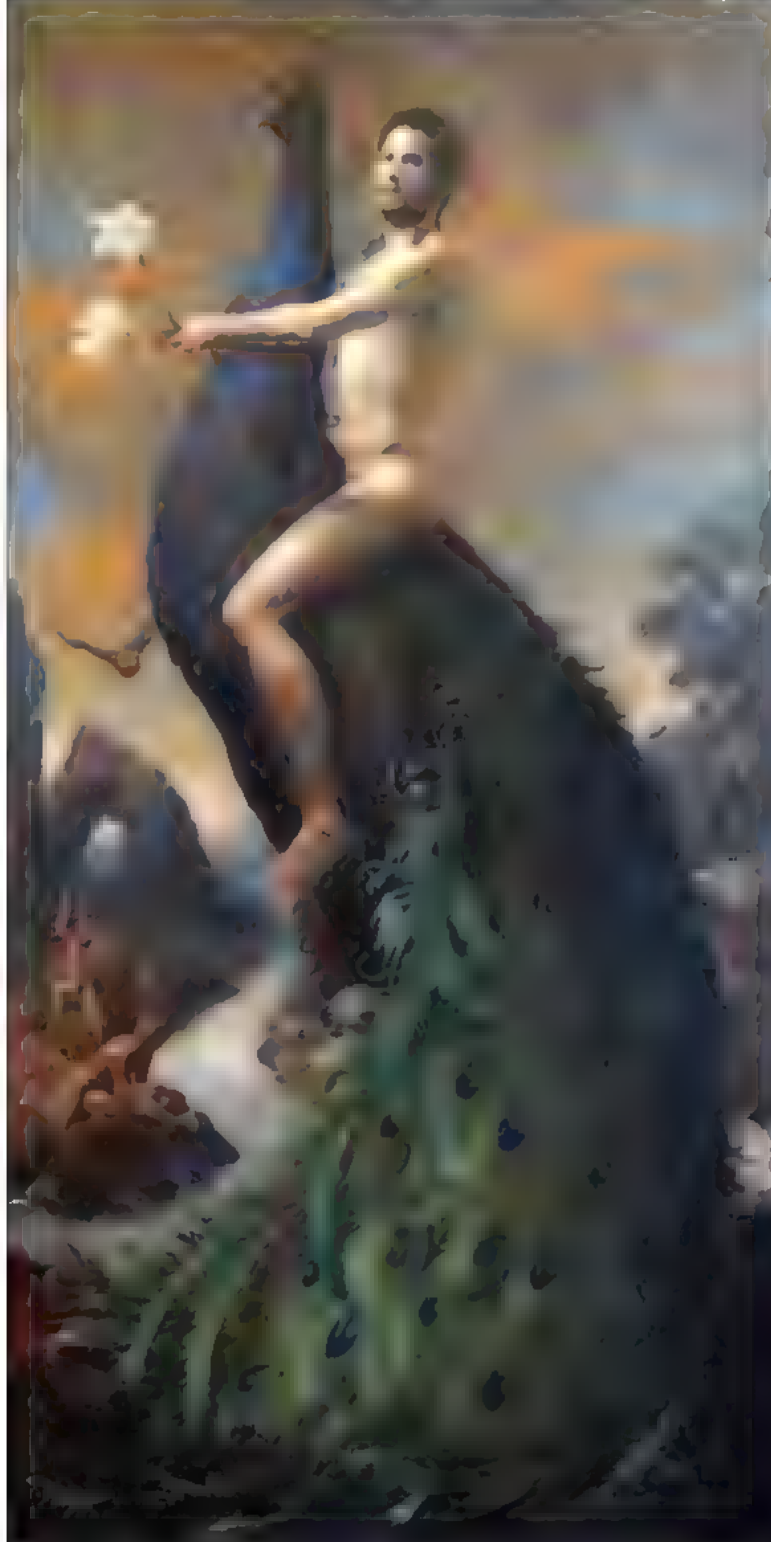
Kris Kuksi



Terrance Lindall



Drew Maillard



Adam Miller





Walter Lynn Mosley



Robert Vierling



### Rich Buckler's "Dali in Paradise"

Rich was an American comics artist and penciller, best known for his work on Marvel Comics' Fantastic Four in the mid-1970s and for creating the character Deathlok in Astonishing Tales #25. Buckler drew virtually every major character at Marvel and DC, often as a cover artist.





Bienvenido Bones Banez



## HISTORICAL EXHIBITS

17th century handwritten Torah on vellum THE BOOK OF GENESIS from a 17th century handwritten Torah on vellum (23 feet long).  
SPECIAL BOOK & MANUSCRIPT DISPLAYS:

CHARLES LAMB'S copy of first illustrated 1691 edition of Paradise Lost.

LADY POMFRET'S copy of the first illustrated edition (c. 1688) of Paradise Lost. She was a noble 18th century British woman of great learning, and the Lady of the Bedchamber of Queen Caroline.

THE BOOK OF GENESIS, a 17th century handwritten Torah on vellum (23 feet long)